# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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| 10/731,079 | 12/09/2003 | Douglas R. Fish | ROC920030190US1 | 3767 |

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| EXAMINER |
|---|
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

*-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --*

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _23 November 2010_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.          2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4)☒ Claim(s) _1,2,4-8,12,13 and 15-20_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1,2,4-8,12,13 and 15-20_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

## DETAILED ACTION

### Remarks

1.      In response to communications filed on 23 November 2010, claims 1, 12, and 17 have

been amended and claims 9-11 have been cancelled per the applicant's request.  Claims 1, 2, 4-8,

12, 13, 15-20 are presently pending in the application.


### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2.      The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3.      Claims 1, 2, 4-8, and 12-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Cragun et al. (U.S. patent application publication No. 2005/0125447 A1).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application.  Based upon

the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C.

102(e).  This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37

CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the

inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate

showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

As to claim 1, Cragun et al. teaches a method for providing annotation information for a

set of data (title = "Including annotation data with disparate relational data), comprising:

querying an annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (paragraph 0020,

"annotation store may be queried to identify annotations for data objects in a current view of

data"),

each annotation record associated with a portion of the set of data and having one or more

annotation fields (paragraph 0031, "annotations associated with various portions of data view"

and 0052, "multiple annotations exist for a single object"),

wherein the set of data is a relational table containing query results (see paragraph 0022,

"views of tabular data arranged in rows and columns" and "views of query results generated in

response to issuing a query");

generating a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the

retrieved one or more annotation records (paragraph 0043 "in the case the primary keys were not

a part of the results set specified for the original query, the query may be modified to add

primary keys to the result set" and paragraph 0044 "annotation information is retrieved, based on

the primary key and the data source")

the retrieved one or more annotation records including at least two annotation fields, each

annotation field containing a separate annotation; consolidating data contained in the at least two

annotation fields of the retrieved on or more annotation records (paragraph 0052, "if multiple

annotations exist for a single object, a single icon indicating the multiple annotations ... may be

displayed");

returning an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and

a field containing the consolidated data (paragraph 0053, "user may be able to view a limited

amount of information regarding an annotation... a global unique identifier identifying the

corresponding annotation may be retained, which may facilitate retrieving  the entire annotation

when requested by a user display"); and

joining the annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated linking value

(paragraph 0054, "identifying and indicating annotations for displayed data... an indication of the

annotated data objects may be provided"  and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 2, Cragun et al. teaches further comprising returning the set of data with the

annotation data structure (see paragraphs 0052-53).

As to claim 4, Cragun et al. teaches comprising joining the annotation data structure with

the set of data prior to returning the annotation data structure  (see paragraph 0054).

As to claim 5, Cragun et al. teaches wherein the linking value comprises primary key

data (see paragraph 0044).

As to claim 6, Cragun et al. teaches wherein the primary key data comprises compound

primary key data involving at least two fields (see paragraphs 0041 and 0044).

As to claim 7, Cragun et al. teaches further comprising receiving a query to retrieve the

annotation data, the query identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the annotation

records (see paragraph 0020).

As to claim 8, Cragun et al. teaches further comprising:

receiving a query to retrieve the set of data (see paragraph 0037); and

issuing the query against a data source separate from the annotation store to retrieve the

set of data (see paragraphs 0020 and 0037).

As to claim 12, Cragun et al. a computer-readable storage medium containing a program

for returning annotation data which, when executed by a processor, performs operations

comprising:

querying an annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (see paragraph

0020), each annotation record associated with a portion of the set of data and having one or more

annotation fields (see paragraphs 0031 and 0052), wherein the set of data is a relational table

containing query results (see paragraph 0022);

generating a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the

retrieved one or more annotation records (see paragraphs 0043-44);

the retrieved one or more annotation records including at least two annotation fields each

annotation field containing a separate annotation; consolidating data contained in the at least two

annotation fields of the retrieved one or more annotation records (see paragraph 0052);

returning an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and

a field containing the consolidated data (see paragraph 0053); and

joining the annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated linking value (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 13, please see the citations for claim 2 above.

As to claim 15, please see the citations for claim 7 above.

As to claim 16, please see the citations for claim 8 above.

As to claim 17, Cragun et al. a system for providing annotation information for set of data comprising a relational table containing query results, comprising:

an annotation database for storing annotation records containing annotation data (see figure 1, reference number 139, "Annotation Database"); and

an executable component configured to query the annotation store to retrieve one or more annotation records (see paragraph 0020), each annotation record associated with a portion of the set of data and having one or more annotation fields (see paragraphs 0031 and 0052), generate a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the retrieved one or more annotation records (see paragraphs 0043-44), the retrieved one or more annotation records including at least two annotation fields, each annotation field containing a separate annotation, consolidate data contained in the at least two annotation fields of the retrieved one or more annotation records (see paragraph 0052), return an annotation data structure comprising a field containing the linking value and a field containing the consolidated data (see paragraph 0053), and join the consolidated annotation data structure with the set of data using the generated

linking value (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

As to claim 18, please see the citations for claim 2 above.

As to claim 19, Cragun et al. teaches wherein the executable component is further configured to retrieve the set of data from a data source separate from the annotation store (see paragraph 0054).

As to claim 20, Cragun et al. teaches wherein the executable component is further configured to join the consolidated annotation data with the set of data, using the linking value, prior to returning the set of data with the annotation structure (see paragraph 0054 and see figure 4E, reference number 430).

### Response to Arguments

4.      Applicant's arguments filed 23 November 2011 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Examiner would like to thank Applicant for taking the time to interview the case. While Applicant's amendments to the claims do not overcome the previously cited prior art, the interview was useful in showing the differences between what is disclosed in the two applications.

Applicant's claim states "generating a linking value identifying the portion of the set of data associated with the retrieved one or more annotation records, the retrieved one or more

annotation records including at least two annotation fields, each annotation field containing a

separate annotation." The claim language indicates that the linking value is used to identify the

data that is associated with the annotations and does not indicate that the value is used to identify

the two annotation fields themselves. Cragun teaches generating a linking value that identifies

the annotated field in two places. The first is in the index table and the second is in the indicia

map. In the index, the annotated field is identified by information that uniquely identifies it such

as the table, row, and/or columns that are being annotated (see paragraph 0032). This index is

queried to identify annotated records that belong to objects identified in a data set (see paragraph

0035). Therefore the value that identifies the data being annotated in the index is a linking value

that identifies the portion of the set of data associated with the retrieved one or more annotation

records. Further it is also used to identify at least two annotation fields in at least one

embodiment (see paragraph 0052, where multiple annotations exist for a single object, if there

are multiple annotations there would be multiple entries in that in the index for that object).

The indicia map also identifies the fields that are annotated using a bit map (see

paragraphs 0038-40). While the indicia map would not identify that there is more than one entry

for an annotation as described, the requirement of the claim is that the linking value identifies the

data being annotated not the annotation itself. Again paragraph 0052 clearly indicates that

multiple annotations can exist for a single object ("at least two annotation fields").

The claim further requires "consolidating data contained in the at least two annotation

fields of the retrieved one or more annotation records." Cragun teaches consolidating the

multiple annotation fields in to "a single icon for multiple annotations," and therefore teaches the

consolidation step.

## Conclusion

5.      **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.**  Applicant is reminded of the extension of time

policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action.  In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action.  In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing

date of this final action.

6.      Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Jacob F. Bétit whose telephone number is (571)272-4075.  The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:30 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tony Mahmoudi can be reached on (571) 272-4078.  The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

/Jacob F Bétit/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2169

jfb
31 Jan 2011